sufficient traffic at present to warranty its widening from existing two lanes to four/six-lanes, which will also depend on availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

Construction of Bridge across Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh

347. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposal to construct a road bridge across the Krishna river connecting Krishna and Guntur districts of Puligodda and Penumudi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a). No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Import of Maize

348. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of maize due to drought conditions in several States and sufficient quantity of maize is not available to meet the demand of starch industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to import maize to meet the demand;and

(c) if not, the alternative steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). While there is a possibility of a slight shortfall in production of maize in the current year, the situation at present does not appear to warrant imports.

Changes in Readymade Garments Export Policy

350. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any suggestions from the Apparels Export Promotion Council for changes in the policy regarding export of ready made garments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). The Government had received suggestions from Apparel Export Promotion Council and different sectors of the garment export trade for certain modifications in the provisions of the Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for 1991-93. After examining various suggestions, Government have made the following changes in the Policy for the year 1992 and 1993:

(1) For 1992 and 1993, only quantities that become available from time to time on account of flexibilities and surrenders shall be allocated under the F.C.F.S. system.

(2) i) The percentage of allocation under the Manufacturer-Exporter Entitlement (MEE) System has been

raised from the present 18% to 20%.

ii) The present limit of 125% on past performance allotments (PPE) and MEE allotments taken together in respect of MEE allotments has removed.

iii) The maximum number of country/category combination an exporter may opt under MEE System has been reduced from 15 to 10.

iv) Reservation of 75% Quota under Non-Quota Exporter Entitlement (NQE) system for thrust countries has been abolished. Base period under this system has been made at par with PEE system. The allocation in this system has been raised from the present 10% to 18% including 2% reservation exclusively for Handloom garments.

Supply of Woollen or Jute Blankets to Weaker sections at subsidised Rates

351. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to manufacture woollen or jute blankets for the weaker sections and make them available at subsidised rates through consumer cooperatives; and

(b) if so, the price fixed for these blankets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Woollen blankets are covered under the Janata Scheme for supply to weaker sections at subsidised rates. These blankets are also supplied through consumers cooperatives.

(b) The maximum price fixed by Government of India for 60" x 90" blankets is Rs. 50/-.

[*English*]

International Bus Services between Calcutta-Dhaka-Varanasi-Kathmandu

352. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch internationai bus services between Calcutta Dhaka Varanasi Kathmandu as a beginning of SAARC Cooperation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

NTC Mills in Bombay

353. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of textile mills in Bombay taken by the Government since October, 1983 and now run by National Textile Corporation (South Maharashtra) ;

(b) whether a number of permanent workers have still not been absorbed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether such unabsorbed workers